-- C O P Y --

April 23, 1959.

Dear Dr. Marble:

My preferences as to a name for the college are:
1. Saginaw Valley College, 2. Lewis Cass College, 3. John D. Pierce.

It is my honest and well-considered opinion that the best name, by far, is Saginaw Valley College. When we started to talk of a new name, it was the first to suggest itself to me, but I put it aside when some objected to the use of Saginaw. I have come to the conclusion, however, that it is wrong to allow such a matter to be decided on the basis of prejudice and local jealousies. If that name is adopted no doubt some will object, but I believe most people will recognize it to be a logical and wise decision. There will be objection to whatever name we use. In the contest 15 chose Saginaw Valley--only Tri-County was suggested by a larger number.

There are very good reasons why "Saginaw Valley" is appropriate:
1. It is of Indian origin, meaning "Land-of-the-Sauks" and referred to a region, not to a specific village. The Sauks, legend has it, was a tribe of Indians that occupied the valley before the Chippewas.

2. Historically--the name goes back among the whites to early explorers. It was applied to this region long before there were any white settlers--at least 140 years before there was a village of Saginaw. This is shown by LaHontan's map of Canada dated 1680, on which we find Saginaw Bay called "Bay du Sakinan". Since that time, until about 1850, the name has been spelled in many different ways: Sagina, Saguina, Saguinant, etc.

3. Geographically--The Saginaw Valley became known, locally and nationally as a geographical entity very early in the development of the region. The first directory, issued in 1866, was the "Pioneer Directory of the Saginaw Valley". Copies are still in existence. The following is a quotation from that Saginaw Valley directory: "The great advantages of the Saginaw Valley over other lumber districts, lies not alone in the superior quality of the article produced, but also in the peculiar facilities for manufacturing and shipment. The numerous tributaries of the Saginaw River, reaching their ramifications into the very heart of the heavily timbered districts, afford abundant avenues for the easy transportation of logs in rafts and floats to the mills. ... Another advantage over many timber sections is that shipments of lumber may be made direct from the mills in Saginaw Valley to all parts of the world." (Today world shipments to and from the Saginaw Valley are again in the making.)
The author of the 1883 Bay County History frequently used the term Saginaw Valley, and on the first page he wrote of "the far-famed Saginaw Valley".
And the name has continued to be used as a geographical term. In 1918 the Michigan Academy of Science published Frostic's monograph "Floods in the Saginaw Valley". Today we have such as: "Saginaw Valley Dairy Council", "Saginaw Valley Microfilm Service", and "Saginaw Valley Child Guidance Clinic" (serving mainly Saginaw, Midland and Bay counties).

I believe no other name can offer such rich meaning to our area college, and I believe that the fear of some thatit would be shortened to "Saginaw" is not well-founded--the term "Saginaw Valley" rolls off the tongue very easily. As for a college yell--make it "Valley, Valley, rah, rah, rah!"

Yours for "Saginaw Valley College",

(Signed) Geo. E. Butterfield